

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 AF-10 ARA-14

EA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 SY-05 MCT-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /155 W

-----113668 282237Z /44

P R 282151Z OCT 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6733

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS USUN 4164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNRWA, XF

SUBJ: SPEICAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE BEGINS CONSIDERATION
OF UNRWA ITEM

REF: USUN 4091

1. SUMMARY. AM OCT 27 SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (SPC)
BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 55 ON UNRWA. COMMISSIONER GENERAL
THOMAS W. MCELHINERY INTRODUCED THE ANNUAL REPORT AND
RAPPORTEUR OF UNRWA WORKING GROUP (KOLBY, NORWAY) PRESENTED
WORKING GROUP REPORT. STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY JORDAN
(MUSEIBEH), AND SYRIA (SIBAH). BOTH STRESSED NEED FOR ADDI-
TIONAL FUNDS AND POINTED OUT THAT PROBLEM OF PALESTINE
REFUGEES NOT ONLY HUMANITARIAN BUT POLITICAL. DENMARK
ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF ONE MILLION DANISH
CROWNS. PM PLO OBSERVER (KAMEL) CITEID ISRAELI ATROCITIES
IN PALESTINE AND CALLED UPON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO
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SOLVE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES BY DEFEATING
EXPANSIONIST POLICY OF ISRAEL. CUBA (ALARCON) ENTERED A
FORMAL PROTEST OF UN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION INFORMATION PRESS
RELEASE CLAIMING INACCURANCES COVERING HIS SPEECH ON CIVIL
AVIATION ISSUE AOCTOBER 26. THE NEXT SPC MEETING WITH
CONVENE PM OCTOBER 28 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF UNRWA
AND CIVIL AVIATION ITEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL MCELHINERY INTRODUCED HIS ANNUAL REPORT (A/32/13). AFTER DESCRIBING SERVICES CARRIED OUT BY THE AGENCY, HE SAID THAT UNRWA WAS NOT RECEIVING ENOUGH INCOME TO MAINTAIN ITS SERVICES TO PALESTINE REFUGEES AT EXISTING LEVELS. CURRENT DEFICIT IS 12 MILLION DOLLARS ON BUDGET OF 134 MILLION FOR 1977. FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WERE CHRONIC AND, UNLESS SOME APPROACH TO PROBLEM ADOPTED, HE DOUBTED AGENCY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIABLE AT LEAST AT PRESENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. NO FORMAL REPLY HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM A LETTER OF APPEAL TO MAJOR DONORS AND SELECTED OTHER CONTRIBUTORS. HE ENDED WITH HOPE THAT NEEDS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY UNRWA WOULD BE ELIMINATED EVENTUALLY AND THE AGENCY COULD BE DISBANDED.

3. RAPPORTEUR OF WG (KOLBY, NORWAY) INTRODUCED THE REPORT OF THE WG (A/32/278) REMARKING THAT THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE AGENCY WAS MORE CRITICAL THIS TIME LAST YEAR. THE WG CONSIDERED CONTINUATION OF THE AGENCY'S SERVICES TO BE AN OBLIGATION OF THE UN AND IT MADE AN URGENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. OPENING THE GENERAL DEBATE, JORDAN (NUSEIBEH) STATED THAT UNRWA'S PROBLEM WAS THAT OF THE PALESTINE REFUGEES WHOSE ONLY SOLUTION WAS FOR THE UN TO ENSURE THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMELAND IN PALESTINE AND COMPENSATION FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT NOT WANT TO DO SO. UNRWA MUST BE ASSURED TO ADEQUATE FUNDS TO MAINTAIN ITS SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE RATIONS TO THOSE NOW DENIED THEM BECAUSE OF CEILING IMPOSED ON RATION RECIPIENTS BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS. HE URGED THAT A SPECIAL FUND OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY BE CREATED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR REFUGEES. HE ENDORSED RENEWAL OF THE AGENCY'S MANDATE IN JUNE 1978.

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5. SYRIA (SIBAH) STATED THAT THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORTS TO DATE DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINE REFUGEES WHICH WAS POLITICAL AND CAUSED BY ZIONISM AND ZIONISM'S ALLIES. HE SUPPORTED PROCEDURAL PLANS FOR FINANCING THE AGENCY DESCRIBED IN THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S REPORT. IF THE UN WAS NOT ABLE TO PLACE UPON ISRAEL AND ITS ALLIES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COVERING UNRWA'S DEFICIT, IT WAS INCUMBENT ON THE UN TO INCORPORATE THE UNRWA BUDGET INTO THE REGULAR UN BUDGET OR CREATE A SPECIAL BUDGET FINANCED BY OTHER SOURCES.

6. DENMARK ANNOUNCED THAT ON OCTOBER 26 THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE DDANISH PARLIAMENT HAD APPROVED A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF 1 MILLION DANISH CROWNS.

7. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE ECHOED SYRIAN REMARKS THAT THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS NOT HUMANITARIAN BUT POLITICAL AND CAUSED BY ZIONISM. HE QUOTED SECTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S REPORT ON ISRAELI "ATROCITIES" BUT CLAIMED MANY OTHERS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE REPORT; HE WOULD BRING THEM UP DURING DISCUSSION OF "ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES". HE DEPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE AGENCY'S REDUCING SERVICES NECESSITATED BY LACK OF FUNDS. "THE OPTIMUM SOLUTION" TO THE AGENCY'S CHRONIC FINANCILA DIFFICULTIES WAS TO INCORPORATE ITS BUDGET
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AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UN BUDGET. HE ENDED BY STRONGLY CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

8. ALCARON (CUBA) MADE A FORMAL PROTEST AGAINST THE UN OPI PRESS RELEASE COVERING HIS STATEMENT OCTOBER 26 ON THE CIVIL AVIATION ISSUE (ITEM 129). AMONG OTHER COMPLAINTS HE ACCUSED THEM OF "FALSIFYING" FIGURES OF THOSE KILLED DURING SABOTAGE OF CUBAN PLANE - HE SAID HE HAD CITED 73 WHILE THEY REPORTED 55.

9. NEXT SPC MEETING PM OCTOBER 28 WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON UNRWA AND CONSIDER THE CIVIL AVIATION ITEM UNDER "ORGANIATION OF WORK".
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PORG, SREF, EAID, XF, UNRWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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